

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 17, 19 and 39-42 have been amended. New Claims 45-61 have been added. The amendments to the claims and the new claims are supported by at least the originally filed claims, Figures 1-3 and the related description of those Figures in the present application. No new matter has been added.

Claims 17, 19 and 39-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Vardi (US 6,325,826). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Vardi discloses with reference to Figures 7-9 a main stent 40 and expandable portion 38 surrounding a side opening 16 of the stent 40. A balloon 25 extends from within a main vessel 8 at a proximal end of the main stent 40 through the opening 16 into a branch vessel 7. Inflation of the balloon 25 expands the expandable portion 38.

Vardi fails to disclose a stent body that includes a substantially tubular stent wall defining a circumferential plane, and a plurality of movable members engaged to the stent wall, wherein the stent body is "expandable from an unexpanded condition to an expanded condition by expansion of the single balloon within the stent wall," as required by claim 17. The expanded condition of the movable members of claim 17 is a radially outwardly extended orientation relative to the stent wall. Thus, Vardi further fails to disclose "in the unexpanded condition the plurality of movable members being retained substantially within the circumferential plane of the stent wall and in the expanded condition a portion of the plurality of movable members being extended radially outward from the stent wall to form a scaffold" upon expansion of the single balloon within the stent wall, as required by claim 17. The balloon 25 disclosed by Vardi extends through the opening 16 and into the branch vessel 7 before and during inflation in order to expand the expandable portion 38. The expandable portion 38 moves into a radially outward extended position upon inflation of the balloon 25 outside of the stent. Therefore, Vardi fails to disclose every limitation of claim 17 and the claims that depend from it.

Further to the above, Vardi discloses catheters having tube shaped balloons. None of the balloons disclosed by Vardi include an elongate body region and a bulge region "protruding

radially outward from the body region when expanded," as required by claim 41. Therefore, Vardi fails to disclose every limitation of claim 41 and the claims that depend from it for this additional reason.

New Claims

New claim 45 depends from claim 41 and should be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above related to claims 17 and 41. New claim 46 depends from claim 17 and should be allowable for at least those reasons discussed above related to claim 17.

New claims 47-56 are directed to a catheter system having a balloon that includes an elongate body portion and a bulge portion, wherein the bulge portion is used to expand the movable members of the stent. The prior art of records fails to disclose or suggest all of the limitations of new claims 47-56.

New claims 57-60 are directed to a catheter system having a stent with movable members that are self expanding structures. The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest all of the limitation of new claims 57-60.

New claim 61 is directed to a catheter system wherein a single balloon is used to expand both a side wall and a plurality of movable members of the stent. The single balloon extends within the stent between distal and proximal ends of the stent. The prior art fails to disclose every limitation of new claim 61.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If a phone conference would be helpful in resolving any further issues related to this matter, please contact Applicants' attorney listed below at 612-371-5387.

Respectfully submitted,



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